

Figure S1. Gating strategy for flow cytometry.Gating strategy for regulatory T cells (Treg), defined as CD3⁺CD4⁺CD25⁺CD127⁻ cells.



Figure S2. MAIT cell gating strategy and T cell receptor (TCR) co-receptor expression. (**A**) Gating strategy for MAIT cells, defined as CD3⁺CD161⁺ Va7.2⁺ cells. (**B**,**C**) TCR co-receptor expression in CD3⁺MR1 5-OP-RU⁺ and CD3⁺CD161⁺Va7.2⁺ MAIT cells isolated from peripheral blood of COVID-19 patients and healthy controls (HC), HC n = 16/5, COVID mild n = 16/7, COVID severe n = 8/5, (C) HC n = 16/5, COVID acute n = 20/7, COVID convalescent n = 9/4. Data are presented as mean ± SEM and were pooled from 5 independent experiments; each symbol represents one patient; * p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01 vs. healthy control or as indicated; data were assessed using

two-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) with Tukey's multiple comparisons test (**B**,**C**); ns = not significant, DN = CD4/CD8 double negative.



Figure S3. MAIT cell activation and ex vivo cytokine expression. (**A**) Spearman correlation of MAIT cell frequency in peripheral blood of COVID-19 patients and expression of activation and exhaustion markers, n = 19. (**B**) PD-1 MFI in CD3⁺CD161⁺Va7.2⁺ MAIT cells isolated from peripheral blood of acute and convalescent COVID-19 patients

and healthy controls (HC), HC n = 26, COVID acute n = 9, COVID convalescent n = 6. (**C**,**D**) Ex vivo intracellular cytokine expression in CD3⁺MR1 5-OP-RU⁺ MAIT cells from peripheral blood of COVID-19 patients and healthy controls, (**C**) HC n = 13, COVID n = 25, (D) HC $n \ge 13$, COVID mild $n \ge 19$, COVID severe $n \ge 6$. Data are presented as mean +/- SEM and were pooled from 3 independent experiments; (**A**,**C**,**D**) each symbol represents one patient; * p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01, **** p < 0.001, **** p < 0.001 vs. HC or as indicated, data were assessed using one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) with Tukey's multiple comparisons test (**B**), unpaired t-test (**C**) or two-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons test (**D**); ns = not significant



Figure S4. Cytokine expression of MAIT cells following in vitro stimulation. Intracellular cytokine expression in CD3⁺MR1 5-OP-RU⁺ MAIT cells from COVID-19 patients and healthy controls (HC) following stimulation with 50 ng/ml IL-12/IL-18 (A–C) or co-culture with E. coli at 10 bacteria per cell (B,C) for 24 hours. Data are presented as mean ± SEM and were pooled from 3 independent experiments; HC *n* = 15, COVID mild *n* = 15, COVID severe *n* = 15; ** *p* < 0.01, data were assessed using two-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) with Tukey's multiple comparisons test; ns = not significant.

		COVID-19 acute	COVID-19 convalesent
Cases	number	23	19
Samples	number	24	26
Baseline characteristics			
Age (years)	median	66	61
	(range)	(26-86)	(24–84)
Male	number (%)	14	13 (68.4)
Female	number (%)	9	6 (31.6)
Infectious diseases ward	number (%)	15	7 (36.8)
Intensive care unit	number (%)	8	12 (63.2)
Symptom onset - sampling (days)	median	8	45.5
	(range)	(1-21)	(9-74)

Table S1. Characteristics of acute and convalescent COVID-19 patients.